

program will leave many of our Nation's seniors high and dry and our future generations without a health care program to depend upon.

And guess what? The Obama administration doesn't care. Instead of making Medicare reform a top priority, the administration has passed the task off to a panel of unqualified bureaucrats—like it was busy work that they couldn't be bothered with.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is going broke. That's a reality this administration has to face. The program is already driving up the larger-than-life debt, and it will only get worse from here. I urge the administration to at least present us with one option for fixing Medicare's present money problem. And if they can't, the House GOP doctors have plenty of suggestions of where to begin.

REPUBLICANS ARE HIDING THE TRUTH ABOUT MEDICARE FROM THE PUBLIC

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, before I came to Congress, I was a newspaper editor in Louisville, Kentucky. And as an editor, my job was to make sure that our stories revealed the truth and made things easier to understand for our readers. Right now, the Republican majority in Congress is editing to obscure the truth and to hide the facts from the American people.

Ever since a Republican candidate in New York lost a special election in a heavily Republican district because she supported the reckless GOP plan to end Medicare, the majority in this body has been petrified about what it might mean for their political careers if the American people actually found out the truth, and they are doing everything they can to hide the truth.

The Republican-controlled Franking Commission—which controls content of mailings from congressional offices—is now dictating that any reference to the end of Medicare be cut out from correspondence. Whenever the word “end” is used, they say we have to use the word “change.” They won't let the truth be told. But the truth is, if you have eliminated something, you haven't changed it. You can't change something that has been killed. That's what the American people need to know. That's what the Republican majority is trying to hide, but they will not deceive the American people.

HAPPY 236TH BIRTHDAY TO THE U.S. ARMY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the birthday of the United States Army; 236 years ago, the United States Army was established to defend our families.

The Army began June 14, 1775 as the Continental Army. The Continental Congress established the Army to coordinate military efforts among the 13 independent colonies.

With victory in the Cold War, more people and more countries today live in democracy, freedom and peace than in the history of the world due to the success of America's military. Promoting the values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage, today's soldiers represent the best of our Nation.

As the grateful son of an Army Air Corps Flying Tiger and as a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserves and Army National Guard, I know firsthand the competence and patriotism of servicemembers. Especially my wife, Roxanne, and I are grateful to have three sons currently serving in the Army National Guard. My youngest son, Second Lieutenant Hunter Taylor Wilson, was commissioned last month an engineer through the Clemson University ROTC.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CENSORSHIP BY FRANKING COMMISSION

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to object to the majority Franking Commission's exercise in blatant and transparent censorship on a Medicare mailing I and other colleagues of mine wish to send to our constituents.

I'm not allowed to call it the “Ryan budget” even though the Republicans called it the Ryan budget, because, of course, it has become unpopular. I'm not allowed to refer to changing Medicare to a voucher system even though Mr. RYAN himself referred to it as a voucher system. I must now call it a “premium support system.”

These changes, among many others, are censorship at its worst. When we don't like something, when it's not going well for us on the majority side, we suppress it. This censorship would make former Soviet censors blush at the breathtaking nature and sweeping scope of the suppression of free expression, of free ideas here in the Nation's Capitol.

REPUBLICANS WORKING TO CREATE JOBS

(Mr. BUCSHON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about jobs.

Last week, during the district work period, I met with local business leaders, toured businesses throughout my district, and listened to their concerns. It should not come as a surprise to

anyone the main topic of conversation was where are the jobs and what is the state of the economy.

Over and over, the small business leaders told me that government regulations and uncertainty are negatively affecting their ability to grow and create jobs. Businesses are afraid to invest in the future due to the uncertainty in our Tax Code, the increased costs and regulations stemming from the Affordable Care Act—which they can't afford—and the increased burdens of an out-of-control regulatory process that has stifled job creation.

Just yesterday, the National Federation of Independent Business released their report showing a decline in optimism for small businesses for a third consecutive month. It has been 28 months since the ill-conceived stimulus passed and a year since June 2010 was declared “recovery summer” by the administration; yet 1.9 million fewer Americans have jobs. This is why we need to get our fiscal house in order, cut spending, repeal the Affordable Care Act, and end onerous regulations.

The Republican majority gets the message, and everything we're doing is to create a climate where we can expand and create jobs in America.

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EMPOWERING BUSINESSES TO GET ECONOMY GOING

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, it is no coincidence that Illinois' corporate tax rate is the fourth-highest in the Nation and yet ranks 48th in economic performance. Businesses, big and small, can no longer afford to keep their doors open and hire more workers when they face a 45 percent tax increase.

If we are serious about creating jobs, then we must stop allowing the government to pick winners and losers in today's economy. In order to create economic certainty, we must have a level playing field and clearly defined rules that don't change halfway through the game. We need to encourage businesses to invest and to expand here at home. One way that we can do that is through corporate tax reform, eliminating tax loopholes that currently exist in the system.

One thing is clear: Increases in taxes without spending reform cannot work. It is time that we start to empower businesses to get our economy moving again. Illinois has lost 750,000 manufacturing jobs over the last decade. Now is the time we have to focus on job creation.

A REAL, ACTIONABLE JOBS PLAN FOR AMERICA IS NEEDED

(Mr. QUAYLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)